



The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



DIANE LOMBARDI, President of M. H. A. Juniors, takes a few tips from Phebe Brown, retiring President — all pretty boring to the drill horses. Candid shot by Cliff Barbera of Colbourn's.

FEBRUARY, 1950



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OPEN MEETING TO FEATURE TRAIL FILMS

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M. H. A. OFFICERS — 1950

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OPEN MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 2nd
Time 8:00 P. M.
Place: Theatre of Sun Electric Corp.,
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You're Probably in the Pictures— Better Come See!

It's George H. Daniels' Night, and everybody's welcome! George has some 800 feet of film, taken during both of his Annual Trail Rides, to show.

The place: the modern, comfortable, heated theatre of Sun Electric Corp., in the new brick building at 11th and Grove.

Time: 8:00 p. m., Thursday, March 2. Through the courtesy of Bud Vogel, this meeting place is ours without charge.

Daniels asks that members make suggestions for a long range, well integrated trails program, to be developed in cooperation with City and Park officials.

During 1949, in cooperation with the Park Dept., a considerable amount of money was spent on the horse approaches to the Joaquin Miller Arena. These trails make the arena easily accessible to horsemen, and useful for practice and training during most of the year.

In addition, the new trail which provides a scenic ride from Miss Graham's Redwood Stables around the hills to the old race track was built. The York Trail, although dedicated in 1949, still requires work.

Unfortunately, upkeep on other trails had to be sacrificed in order to achieve these objectives. Emergency needs on the trails should be brought to the attention of George Daniels and his committee.

TRAILS COMMITTEE NAMED

Directors George Daniels and Joe Stern have named Sidney Chown, Alicia Coffey, Martin Murray, Art Palmer, Wesley Adams, Jim Myers, Pete Little, Mary Lou Hutton and Heber Brown as members of the Trails Committee.

They request that M. H. A. members bring to the March 2 meeting their suggestions for raising the money for the kind of trail system they want. Trail donations are welcome—indeed, they're essential.

NEW DATE FOR DANCE... MARCH 25th

Prizes Galore! Stan Johnson's Band

The biggest dollar's worth this side of 1939—that's the promise of Deane Burton and Bud Vogel, for the M. H. A. Spring Dance.

Joe Merritt has donated a magnificent belt buckle. Mel Coe of Chuck Wagon fame has added a clock in a handsome horse mounting. These and some 20 or 30 more will be awarded as prizes during the evening.

THE COMMITTEE: People who know about dances—Dutch Cummings, Mel Coe, Roger Farrar, Joe Merritt, in addition to Bud and Deane.

THE MUSIC: Stan Johnson's Band. They'll mix 'em up to order.

THE PLACE: Cook's Hall, 1604 Webster St. It's a perfect spot because it's easy to find and parking's no problem. Three floors of this modern building will be available. There will be a soft drink bar for the Juniors and members who are just plain thirsty. And a cocktail bar for you-know-who.

THE TIME: 8:30 p. m. to 1:00 a. m., Saturday, March 25. Get tickets at any stable, from your club, or from the committee.

Directors, Carried Away, Plan Big Door Prize

Swept off their feet by the prospect of a tremendous evening, the Directors are backing the party all the way.

M. H. A.'s own contribution to the Spring Dance prize list will be either cash or a reservation at the C. S. H. A. Convention in Palm Springs this Fall.

Investigation is under way to see what is available at the desert resort city. Read the March issue for details.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Vice-President Charlie Gray and Director Harold Cummings announce the following appointments: Stan Cosca, Bill Patten, Ray Theobald, George Daniels, Mary Gale, Blanche Paul, Leon Dahloff, Bob Lorimer, Cliff Clark, Tom Bacon, and Kay Jones.

M. H. A. Jrs. Committee will be: Carol Cosgrief, chairman; Corinne Smith, Phebe Brown, Janet Phillips, and Barbara Dorsey.

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MEET YOUR DIRECTORS FOR 1950

HEBER JAMES BROWN, President

—is senior partner in the firm of Brown, Smith & Ferguson, Oakland attorneys. He owns horses variously located in North Dakota, Lake Co., Calif. and Oakland. He rides his favorite mount, Bea, in the Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol (see cover, Jan. Trail Blazer). He served M. H. A. as Vice-President in 1949, and has worked on Trails, Membership and Horse Show committees in previous years. Boy Scout work takes up any spare (!) time he has available.

CHARLES W. GRAY, Vice-President

—is co-owner of the La Salle Market in Montclair. He rides his bay gelding, Joe, with the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse, and stables at Skyline. He was a director of M. H. A. last year, and worked on that notable horse show program, among other duties. This year he is Membership Chairman. He likes hunting and fishing. A man after our own heart: when asked about a hobby, he said, "Vacations."

MRS. MABEL SMITH, Treasurer

—is the pleasant, capable Purchasing Agent for the County of Alameda. Formerly riding from Piedmont Stables, she now keeps her mare, Ginger, at her own beautiful new home. Quoting from "Southwest Purchasing Agent": "Mrs. Smith comes from Eastern Oregon, where her father . . . had a large cattle ranch near Lakeview . . . During 1920 she arrived in Oakland, to attend Heald's Business College . . . This same college awarded Mrs. Smith the degree of Master of Business Administration, this coveted degree having been given by that institution to only two other persons." A member of M. H. A. for six years, she likes trail riding, hunting and dogs.

JAMES A. MYERS, Public Relations

—An attorney-at-law in Oakland, Jim's outstanding work as President of M. H. A. last year is widely recognized. His buckskin geldings, Smoky, Jock and Buck are kept at his own stable. Known for his love of horses, his shy grin and colorful vocabulary, Jim continues his invaluable public relations work this year.

MISS DEANE BURTON, Activities

Deane and her gelding, Idiot's Delight, are well known at California horse shows in the hunter and jumper classes. She is President of that fine women's western group, the Lari-ettes, works at the U. S. Naval Hospital, and has served M. H. A. since 1942 on horse show and membership committees.

HAROLD CUMMINGS, Membership

—is owner of Metropolitan Dry Cleaners. He belongs to the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse, Boots & Jeans, and Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Ass'n. He owns a Tennessee Walker and a Saddlebred.

GEORGE H. DANIELS, Trails

—is George Daniels Inc. of the Pontiac Agency, S.F. A former Director, Vice-President, Horse Show Manager for M. H. A., he rides with the S. F. Sheriff's Posse, Los Caballeros, Las Desgiertos. The two Field Days at which members were his guests are highlights in M. H. A. history.

WALTER GRONDONA, Horse Show

—is a widely-known Oakland club and business man. He keeps 8 horses at his 5 G Ranch in Pleasanton, and is now riding a new quarter horse, Lucky Jr., in the Sheriff's Posse. M. H. A. charter member.

DAVID CLAY JONES, Trail Blazer

—is Manager of Service Heat & Power Co., rides his gelding, King, with the Shrine Mounted Patrol. He traded Wyoming range life for books, but likes hunting, fishing, M. H. A. Wild West Shows.

CLARENCE A. SIMONS, Horse Show

—is Allen-A distributor for the Pacific Coast, secretary of the Shrine Mounted Patrol. He frequently exhibits Geronimo, his registered Pinto gelding. He was 1949's genial Activities Director.

JOE STERN, Trails

—has been a member of M. H. A. two years, and rides with the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse. He owns the Joe Stern Truck Co. of Oakland. His horse is a sorrel Morgan gelding named Biscuit.

JOHN G. THIEL, Trail Blazer Adv. Manager

—is a real estate and insurance broker with A. A. Thiel Co. He rides with Upson Downs at Cressmount, is after an "80" in golf, acts as Advertising Manager of Trail Blazer with enthusiasm.

R. M. (BUD) VOGEL, Activities

—is with the Sun Electric Corp., rides with Boots & Jeans and Footprinters. His three-fourths thoroughbred pinto, Cheta, specializes in dressage. Two years in M. H. A., Bud is a whiz as Activities Chairman.

MRS. GEORGE WALLING, Juniors

Kay's energy has brought M. H. A. a real drill team and parade unit, and has given M. H. A. youngsters first-hand experience in horsemanship, showmanship, and organization—real achievements!



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REGIONAL, STATE MEETINGS

Region 5 got off to a good start at its dinner meeting in San Leandro, January 27. Guests of Regional Vice-President Joe Masone were C. S. H. A. President Fred Anderson, Assemblyman Francis Dunn, C. S. H. A. Secretary Ray Stone, and former C. S. H. A. President Ed Zwierlein.

Zwierlein, who has been appointed State Trails Chairman, will represent horsemen at Sacramento in their effort to get appropriations for the State Trail.

JUNIORS SCORE IN SACRAMENTO

Walleen Grondona, mascot of the M. H. A. Jrs., and Pat Rukavina attended the January show at Barbara Worth Stables, Sacramento, with splendid results:

Walleen placed first in English equitation (on Corinne Smith's Bengal Tiger), second in Western equitation, and fifth (on Golden Cloud) in the class for equitation horses, open to any age.

Pat took first place in junior horsemanship, western, and was given a special award in the English Division.

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HILLS ARE SAFER, SAY HUMANE OFFICERS

M. H. A. members' contributions to the Humane Society have aided considerably in making the trails safe for horses, dogs — and people, according to Jack Killam, Vice-President of the Oakland Branch, S.P.C.A.

Those of you who remember conditions in the hills three or more years ago, when M. H. A. asked for help, can see the improvement: fewer horses being run to death, fewer reckless riders and hence fewer accidents; patrolmen to check the use of guns and to make parks and trails safe for both men and women.

State Humane Society officers serve without pay and work in cooperation with Regional Park officials and the Oakland Police Dept. They are: Jack Richards, District Field Manager; Archie Brown, Stanley Cosca, Stoney Pierce, Jim Welch, and George Witt.

Help is available day and night, by calling S. P. C. A. Headquarters at Ford and 23rd Ave. (KE. 2-7667) or the Western Stables (ANdover 1-1164).

The Society maintains a care center for lost and injured animals. Its work is dependent entirely on memberships and contributions. Make yours through M. H. A. Director Harold Cummings, 3453 Robinson Drive—and make it soon, as the need is great.

BARBARA WORTH SHOW

The Grondona's new buckskin colt, Touch of Texas, placed third in hackamore and fourth in trail classes at the Barbara Worth Stables' January show in Sacramento. Ed Caton has been working the colt, and showed him in both classes.

Idiot's Delight, owned by Deane Burton, and shown by Norma, took the blue in a large class for equitation horses. The class was judged on manners, obedience and promptness in executing directions.

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Grounded by the weather? The next rainy week-end is a good time to check over your equipment, replace the worn parts, and treat the tired leather to a good cleaning. You can add years to its life—and maybe your own.

We asked three saddle experts, all M. H. A. members: "What must I do to put my saddle and bridle in shape?" The answers were unanimous:

1. Clean it. Unfasten all the buckles. Wash the leather and clean it thoroughly with saddle soap. Pay particular attention to any part that touches the horse. Apply a little neetsfoot oil, especially where the leather has hardened.

2. Examine the cinch, latigo and rigging, the stirrup leather, the reins. Your safety depends upon these. If they show wear, replace them.

In addition, there was further advice:

Saddle-Doctor Don Bentley (Pinto Ranch): "Oiling and a good going-over with saddle soap every three weeks or so will keep an outfit in fine shape for years." If you have silver equipment, don't let it turn black. Should you find yourself allergic to elbow-grease, Don can re-dye the leather and shine the silver, as well as replace the concha you lost.

Saddle-Doctor Earl Nanninga (Skyline Ranch): "Riding in the rain is hard on leather. So is storage in a warm basement or a damp tack room. Keep it clean and oiled." Earl had some ranch saddles in for repairs; he was putting on new strings and latigo, re-wrapping a horn and replacing loose stitching.

"A saddle in pretty bad shape can be re-conditioned for \$25 or less. New sheepskin linings run around \$14 for a square skirt, and less for others."

Saddle-Doctor H. W. Starr (Broadway at 6th St.): "Look, too, for a rusty ring on the cinch. If it is pitted by rust, you can't tell how strong it is."

When we asked about protecting a horse from saddle sores, Starr recommended a woven hair blanket to use under your Navajo. "It can be dunked in water and dried in an hour; it protects both blanket and horse, especially in roping, or when the rider is above average weight." (About \$5.25.)

These saddle-makers gave their advice willingly. They were genuinely concerned that good leather should get good treatment, and that riders should be safe. Needless to say, they also stand ready to make you a new outfit before horse show season.

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POSSE TO INSTALL

Art Palmer was re-elected Captain of Alameda County Sheriff's Posse for 1950. First Lieutenant: Larry Lovier. Second Lieutenants: Walter Blumert and Bill Pray. Past Captain E. J. Carey will officiate at installation ceremonies on Feb. 14 at Castro Villa.

New member Barney Weisgerber has passed safely through the ritual of initiation.

The Posse-Skyline Ranch Christmas party for 50 under-privileged children made history, and will be an annual event. Each posse member and boarder at the Ranch sponsored a child. With Gus Himmelman as Santa, and Bill Pray assisting, the children received clothing, toys, a gift stocking from Skyline Ranch, as well as hot dogs, pop and all the ice cream they could stow away.

Sheriff Gleason was in the thick of the fun.

Stables and indoor ring were decorated by Art Palmer, Cal Tisher, Joe Cosca and Ed Carey. The Blacks and Coscas presented trick roping, dancing horses, and accordion music. Bill Senecal brought his mule along.

After the program the youngsters took turns riding around the ring and departed, each clutching a silver dollar from Walter Blumert.

SHRINE MOUNTED PATROL

On January 14, Capt. Floyd Jacobs led the group in review before Imperial Potentate Harold Lloyd. This first appearance under Floyd's command assured the group that they can look forward to a great year.

Miss Catherine Bacon and Ranger Treasurer Gerald Jacobs were married Sunday, January 29, in a beautiful ceremony.

John Dell went East to his old home town, and returned with a lovely wife, Mary Beth. Congratulations and a long life of happiness to both couples!

Ted Dreyer and his family were welcomed back from a three-weeks visit to Mexico City, Acapulco and way points.

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BOOTS & JEANS PROGRESS

Less than two years ago, Boots & Jeans Riders made their first public appearance—along with the Lari-ettes at the Ford Dealers Convention of April 1948. They rode without official uniform.

By June 1948, uniforms were ready, and the Livermore Rodeo parade brought a trophy for "best western group."

The Square Dancers received their first trophy at their debut, on Labor Day, at the Concord-Mt. Diablo show. Next came the Blue Ribbon Show in Santa Rosa, where Boots & Jeans were applauded as an outstanding riding unit.

By 1949, trophies were coming thick and fast: first in the mounted division at the Alameda Red Cross parade; special awards and cups at Oakland, Woodside, Castro Valley, Alameda, Concord. By this time the unit was one of the few horsemen's groups in the state to be equipped with its own sound truck.

The 1949 Blue Ribbon Show in Sacramento brought real statewide recognition. As the Square Dancers are not a drill team, they could not enter into competition. But they were given a good spot on the program for their exhibition, and received a real ovation—as well as a big, beautiful trophy.

Total: 17 trophies in as many months.

STABLE NEWS

Arlington Hills Riding Academy

Births: To Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Watson, a boy; to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fowler, a girl. **Weddings:** John Ward, Berkeley horseman, to Miss Gloria Obell. Miss Jacqueline Clements will be married on March 15.

Deaths: That fine old-time horseman, Mr. Stewart of El Monte Stables, El Cerrito. He was 74. Sympathy to the Arthur Gores, on the death of Mrs. Gore's mother. Gore is President of Berkeley Hills Riding Club.

New boarder at Arlington Hills: Joe West's black-and-white pinto, Vic.

Snow-Clark Stables

Welcome to new M. H. A. members, the Clarks. Boarders here are privileged to use the private trails in the Zoo Gardens, and often enjoy family breakfast rides.

Gifts: To Janet Stone, a new horse, Cricket. To Ruth Roberts, her mount, Freckles—both from Mother and Dad.

The Bascoms of Alameda have brought in three lovely Arabian colts which will be eligible for registration when they are a year old.

Pinto Ranch

In preparation for the Spring season, the rent string has been enlarged. New horses include a nice palomino mare, a chestnut horse, two buckskins and a sorrel.

Faithful week-end riders, muddly but happy, are the Tallaricos, Socks, Tom and Babe, as well as Louis Barrious, Charlie Hagaman, and of course Pinto's new boarder, Mr. Robbins.

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CORINNE SMITH WINS 183 MEMBERS

SUBALTERN

Basketball on horseback was a feature of the Shongehon-Subaltern gymkhana on February 5. The Subaltern team was made up of: Karen Anderson, Anne Burnham, Peggy Day, Jeffrey Hardin, Linda Lorimer, Vandra Rosendahl, Wilda Rosendahl, and Janet Scott. Other events were jumping, relay race, pairs class and games.

Officers of Subalterns are: President, Peggy Day; Treasurer, Karen Anderson; Secretary, Wilda Rosendahl; Publicity Chairman, Bonnie Bothwell.

SHONGEHON ELECTION

Janet McKenzie was hostess at the January meeting. Officers elected were: Janet McKenzie, President; Vandra Rosendahl, Secretary; Jo Ann Schetter, Treasurer; Priscilla Meyer, Publicity Chairman.

Plans call for a Shongehon-Subaltern scavenger hunt on February 22.

A feature of the Riders' Rally for April 21 will be the Family Album: pictures taken prior to 1940, dealing with people and their horses. Send pictures, if you have them, to Miss Cornelia Cress, with 25c entry fee to cover mounting and cataloguing.

DRILL TEAM PLANS

The drill team is shaping up nicely under the tutelage of Charles Hall, according to Kay Walling. Plans call for 16 regulars and 4 alternates.

Preparations are also under way for a relay team, a stake race team, and for pole bending. The new ring at Wildwood, built through donations and through the kindness of Johnnie Curry, will be ideal for these events.

Phebe Brown Places Second

Membership Chairman Charlie Gray announced winners in the Junior contest which closed January 31. The score: Corinne Smith 183, Phebe Brown 92, Janet Phillips 20, Barbara Dorsey 14.

Corinne will receive a custom-made riding outfit from Frank Kelly; Phebe wins the riding hat from Kirby Morgan. Congratulations!

NEW JUNIOR CONTEST IS ON

Rules for a new M. H. A. Membership Contest were announced at the Juniors' February meeting. Juniors will compete for monthly prizes, with a grand prize at the close of the contest on June 30.

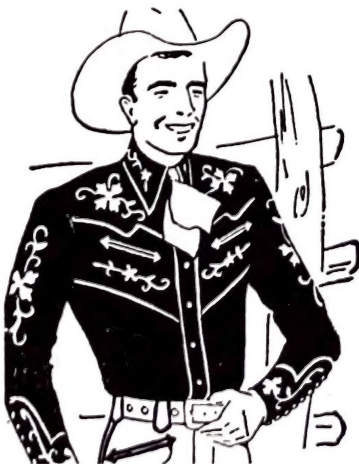
All start with a clean slate on February 1. Memberships collected before that date do not count. An award will be made each month to the winner for that month, and a grand prize will be awarded for the most members for the total 5-months' period.

JUNIOR SNOW TRIP

The February meeting buzzed with plans for the snow trip of February 11 and 12. Destination: Ted Sibert's house at Pine crest. With 52 reservations in, and transportation to be handled by the Wallings, Lombardis, Cummings and other parents, Juniors were looking forward to a rollicking time.

Bud Vogel represented the Directors of M. H. A. at the Juniors' meeting, in the absence of Kay Walling at Palm Springs—her first miss in more than a year! (Bud said the meeting was a credit to her leadership.—Ed.).

Weather permitting, the activity for March will be a trail ride. A tentative date was set for March 11.



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